

COLLATING TABLE FOR EMAIL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A collating table containing user-defined sort criteria in ranked order is employed in sorting electronic mail messages for display to the user. Entries within the collating table prioritize unread and/or previously viewed messages based upon the address of the sender or similar attributes, and may each contain a specific username and domain address, a domain of user addresses, or a plurality of addresses of either type. Entries within the collating table may be fixed or dynamic, with dynamic entries automatically updated based on historical statistics relating to the frequency and/or speed of response by the user to messages previously received from the sender, speed of opening or deleting prior messages from the sender, or some user-specified combination of such attributes. Addresses within the dynamic entries may percolate up or down the ranking of the collating table, with aging employed in removing addresses from the collating table. Other users may be given access to portions of the collating table to rank their own messages to the user, and specific messages may be ranked within or above any messages received from addresses within the collating table until deleted.

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